

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 1 and 3-9 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 2-6 and 9 were rejected as anticipated by EASON et al. 6,283,421. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended and recites that each of the second and third arms is independently and individually pivotable about a central axis in a radial plane relative to the first arm.

As noted on page 4 of the Official Action, the Examiner's interpretation of the second and third arms being "individually pivotable" does not preclude the arms being commonly pivoted. While the term "individually" means distinctly or separately, nevertheless, to advance prosecution, applicant has further amended the claims to clarify that the movement of the second and third arms is independent of each other.

As the arms 1 of EASON move in unison and are not independently and individually pivotable about the central axis (of the first arm) in a radial plane relative to the first arm as recited in claim 1, EASON does not anticipate the claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Independent claim 9 is also amended and recites that the second and third arms are independently and individually pivotable about a central axis in a radial plane relative to the first arm. The analysis above regarding claim 1 is equally applicable to claim 9.

Claims 1 and 3-8 were rejected as unpatentable over RUTHER 6,027,085 in view of EASON et al. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

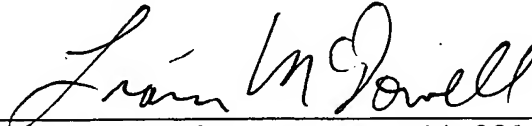
RUTHER is only cited for the disclosure of a joint plate that allows a camera connected to the joint plate to pivot with respect to a tripod assembly. RUTHER does not disclose that each of second and third arms are independently and individually pivotable about a central axis in a radial plane relative to a first arm as recited in claim 1. As set forth above, EASON does not disclose what is recited in claim 1. Since claims 3-8 depend from claim 1 and further define the invention, the proposed combination of references would not have rendered obvious claims 1 and 3-8.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Liam McDowell", written in black ink.

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